

Enfield Clean Energy Newsletter

The Committee

The Enfield Clean Energy Committee is a Town Committee made up of Enfield Residents interested in promoting Clean Renewable Energy.

The team members:

Jeff Myjak—Chair
Ray Gwozdz - V. Chair
Virginia Higley
Steve Moriarty
Greg Mark
Doug Lombardi

LIAISONS :

Town Council:
Tom Kienzler

Staff:
Joel Cox

Interested in joining our team? Send a note to CleanEnergy@Enfield.org and we will send you an application.



Points:

When we reach 200 points, we will be 1 step closer to getting a 2kw solar system.

Each Clean Option purchase is worth 1 point. Each Solar or Geothermal system is worth 3points.

Clean Option Points	156
System Points	66
Total Points	222

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Enfield is Going Solar

Since the January 2012, Enfield has seen an increase in Solar installations. With the current government incentives, it is no surprise.

A 5 KW system can cost as little as \$5,000 installed after all tax incentives. How big is a 5 KW system? It is big enough to supply the electricity for an average ranch home. It will produce about \$1,200 worth of clean electricity each year. Therefore, the savings will be pay for the system cost in less than 5 years.

How to mount the system? A 5 KW system will require 20 panels taking up around 200 square feet. These systems can be mounted on your roof (they will be just above the roof leav-

ing several inches of clearance), they can be mounted on the



ground or the latest way is on a tracking pole.

Ground mount and roof mount have been around for years. The panels have been getting more and more efficient. Two years ago, a 30" x 50" panel would yield approximately 175 watts of electricity. Today, they can provide more than 225 watts.



Pole mounting is the latest technological breakthrough. These are computer controlled so that they track the sun's movement. Hence, they are upwards of 11% more efficient.

The systems have an anemometer on them to detect wind speed. Should the wind speed reach 30 MPH for 5 seconds, they will automatically level off.

Continued on pg2—see Solar

Suffield's 1st Selectman Gets Serious about Saving Energy

Looking to help the town earn a grant and save on utility bills, First Selectman Edward McAnaney had his home undergo an assessment to help make it more energy efficient.

McAnaney said he underwent the assessment not only to save money on utility bills, but also to encourage other residents to do the same as the town participates in the Connecticut Energy Efficient Fund's 20 Percent by 2018 campaign.

During the assessment, which lasted just under four hours, a contractor sealed leaks around

windows and a fireplace, and installed energy-efficient light bulbs and water fixtures.

To date, Suffield has had just over 350 of its over 4,800 homeowners take advantage of this program. They have had energy audits done on 18 businesses. Together, they have 66 points towards their 100 point goal.

Points are calculated based on population so every town gets the credit the same manner. For every 1% of the households that have an energy audit performed, they get 6 points. For every 1%

of businesses that have an audit performed, the town gets 4 points.

The size of the grant is determined by the size of the town. Small towns can get a \$5,000 grant, medium towns can get a \$10,000 grant and cities (such as Enfield) can get a \$15,000 grant. Suffield will qualify for a \$10,000 grant.

These grants are to be used for energy improvements such as replacing street lights with LED lights or giving away CFL or LED bulbs to its residents.

CLEAN ENERGY OPTION FAQ'S

Q: I signed up with Sterling Planet to supply my clean energy options. They are no longer participating in the program. Does the town still get credit?

A. Yes. Even though they no longer participate in the program, the town will still get the credit.

Q. When I enroll in the program, how much of the energy comes from outside the Northeast?

A. None. Because of the success of this Clean Energy Option program, they have reinvested it into the Northeast. Enough so, that now all of our needs are met here. But there is still more investment needed. We are still relying on coal and oil to supply some of our electricity. Those need to be replaced by local clean renewable sources.

Q: I have a question that may be of interest to your readers. Is there a place where I can send it?

A. Yes. Send it to cleanenergy@enfield.org. We will be happy to answer it in an upcoming newsletter.

www.enfieldcleanenergy.net

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Solar (cont.)

They also have built in snow-feature. The panels have a silicone like surface so that the snow can slide off it. The computer senses the snow and automatically tips the system to allow the snow to slide off.

These units are extremely heavy and sturdy. A hole is dug over 10' deep. A concrete disk approximately 4 foot round is poured at the bottom of the hole. Then 4 bolts—10 foot long are attached go to the bottom of the casting, each have a 8" 90 degree bend at the bottom of the casting. The bolts are then encased in a 18 inch concrete tube with rebar.



In all, the system weighs in at 2,600 pounds plus 3,600 pounds of concrete.

Currently, there are at least two companies offering this new technology. The first is GMI of Tolland. They custom build the structure. The other company is C-TECSOLAR of Bristol.

A fallacy of solar is many people think that the electricity they don't use is wasted. They are not home during the day to use the electricity when it is produced. In actuality, the electricity you don't use is fed back out to the grid and you get credits. At night, when you need the electricity, you get to use it for free. Not only do you get to use up the credits you created during the generation

daytime, but you avoid paying the distribution charge.

Not only does the homeowner benefit from solar, but the town does as well. Every homeowner that installs a solar array, solar hot water system or geothermal system, credits the town with 3 points. Through a program run by Connecticut's Clean Energy Fund, for every 100 points the town accumulates, they get a free 1 KW solar array. The businesses, homeowners and municipalities fund this program through their electric rates

If you would like to learn more about Going Solar or any other energy efficiency idea you have, contact any member of the Clean Energy Committee or send an email to: CleanEnergy@Enfield.org

More Summer Savings Tips

Are you looking for ways to cool your house without breaking the bank? Here are a few ideas:

- Put in an automatic thermostat. Set it to come on 30 to 60 minutes before you come home and before you get up. Set it to turn up 4 to 6 degrees before you leave for work and 30 minutes before you go to bed.
- Consider using a whole house fan in the evening. With the windows open, it will act like an air conditioner, pulling in the cool outside air.
- Run your air conditioner as high as you can. Running it at 78 instead of 72 can save you as much as 18%.
- Properly insulate your attic. On warm days, your attic can get up to 140 degrees. A continuous roof vent and soffit can help lower those temperatures.
- Go oven-less at dinner. Use a microwave or outdoor grill.
- Install ceiling fans. They can lower the effective temperature by 7 degrees.
- Summer is vacation season! If you plan on being away from home for an extended period of time, unplug those energy-draining appliances that will serve no good plugged in while you're away. Consider the TV, video game systems, and other appliances before packing up and heading out.
- During the hottest part of the day draw your shades or drapes to ensure the heat stays outside and doesn't stay in your home.